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NEWS RELEASE: ***More power blows into Northwest***

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PORTLAND, Ore. – The Bonneville Power Administration announced today it will purchase electricity from three more wind-powered turbines at an energy project already under way.

SeaWest Energy Corp. of San Diego, Calif., is developing the Wyoming Wind Energy Project in Carbon County, Wyo. PacifiCorp of Portland and the Eugene Water & Electric Board of Eugene, Ore. will own the project. Construction of the initial 69 wind turbines began in August 1997. At that time, BPA agreed to purchase 15 megawatts of the facility's 41.4-megawatt output. BPA sold that power to Salem Electric of Salem, Ore.

"Our wind power sale to Salem Electric will bring in enough revenue to cover almost all of the costs associated with the three new turbines," said BPA Administrator Judi Johansen. "Deals like these allow BPA to invest returns in new renewable resources. We'll continue to look for inventive ways to back renewable energy."

BPA is working with SeaWest to install three additional 600-kilovolt wind turbines. The three turbines together can produce up to 1.8 megawatts of electricity, enough power to serve nearly 700 homes. SeaWest will own and operate the three turbines and sale the power exclusively to BPA. Power from the turbines should be on line by July 1, 1999.

Rachel Shimsak of the Renewable Northwest Project applauded BPA for increasing the amount of clean power available to the region. "This project provides opportunities for customers to invest in the Northwest's future," she said.

BPA sells electricity at wholesale to more than 130 utilities in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana. The agency also sells power directly to some Pacific Northwest aluminum and chemical producers.

SeaWest is the largest independent wind energy developer in the United States. The corporation has developed over 400 megawatts of wind energy in California, Wyoming, the United Kingdom and Spain, and currently has over 400 megawatts under management.

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